

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01565 120448Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 /089 W
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P R 111140Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6585
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1565

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, OAU, ET, SO
SUBJ: POSSIBLE SOMALI WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THIRD COUNTRY OBSERVERS

1. UNFORTUNATELY AMBASSADOR EASUM'S EXCELLENT APPRECIATION OF
MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA'S HORN MEDICATION EFFORTS ARRIVED WHILE
WE WERE CAUGHT UP IN THE CODEL LEGGETT VISIT. THE CABLE DESERVED
MORE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION THAN IT FIRST RECEIVED, PARTICULARLY THE
NEWS THAT GARBA HAS SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT FOR A SOMALI
ETHIOPIAN MINISTERIAL MEETING AT THE OAU SUMMIT.

2. AS WE LOOK AT THE GAPS BETWEEN THE SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN
POSITIONS, THEY APPEAR UNBRIDGEABLE. ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO MUCH
TO HOPE THAT A SETTLEMENT COULD EMERGE FROM AN OAU MINISTERIAL,
THERE MIGHT BE AT LEAST A CHANCE TO ENCOURAGE THE NIGERIANS
TO PRESS FOR A REDUCTION OF VIOLENCE IN THE OGADEN
AS A FIRST STEP. CLEARLY THE FIGHTING THERE ACCOMPLISHES LITTLE
FOR EITHER SIDE, AND ONLY INFLECTS MORE MISERY ON PEOPLES ALREADY
EXHAUSTED BY AN ABORTIVE CONVENTIONAL MILITARY WAR.

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3. THE EMBASSY WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE REMARKS OF PRESIDENT SIAD AND
DEFENSE MINISTER SAMATAR TO CODEL LEGGETT REGARDING US OBSERVERS
OR FACILITIES FOR US OBSERVERS TO VERIFY THAT THERE IS NO SOMALI
MILITARY ASSISTANCE MOVING INTO THE OGADEN. WE ARE INCLINED TO DISCO
UNT
THE ASSERTIONS THAT THERE IS NO SOMALI MILITARY SUPPORT, BUT THE
POSSIBLE OPENING FOR THIRD COUNTRY OBSERVERS IS AN OPPORTUNITY WE

URGE BE EXPLORED. THE VEHICLE FOR BEST DOING SO IS NOT CLEAR
TO US, BUT WE URGE THE DEPT CONSULT WITH LAGOS AND CONSIDER PLANTING
THE IDEA WITH THE NIGERIANS, AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO PROCEED WITH
THEIR PEACE MAKING ROLE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO
HALT ALL OF THE FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN, BUT WE DO THINK IT
MIGHT BE CONTAINED AND EVEN REDUCED WERE BOTH SIDES WILLING TO ACCEPT
AN
INTERNATIONAL PEACE KEEPING COMMISSION. IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT WE
CAN SEE AT LEAST SHORT TERM ADVANTAGES FOR BOTH PARTIES.
VOUGHT

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NNN

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